

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method of allocating memory for a host and at least one conference participant during an application program share session of a multipoint data conference, comprising the steps of:
  - allocating within a host a first block of memory for a host of the application program share session of size sufficient to allow program sharing; and
  - allocating within a host a second block of memory for a participant of the application program share session of size less than said first block of memory.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of dynamically increasing the size of the first block of memory to allow control of a shared application program by a participant.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of dynamically increasing the size of the first block of memory includes the step of maintaining the second block of memory essentially the same size.
4. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of dynamically reducing the size of the first block of memory upon relinquishment of control of the shared application program by the participant.
5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
  - allocating within a participant a third block of memory for the host of size sufficient to allow the participant to view a shared application program; and

P E S S U A R E P A T E N T S

allocating within a participant a fourth block of memory for the participant of size less than said third block of memory.

6. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of dynamically increasing the size of the fourth block of memory to allow the participant to control the shared application.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein said step of dynamically increasing the size of the fourth block of memory includes the step of maintaining the third block of memory essentially the same size.

8. The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of dynamically reducing the size of the fourth block of memory upon relinquishment of control by the participant.

9. The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of dynamically increasing the size of the first block of memory to allow control of a shared application program by a participant.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of dynamically reducing the size of the first block and the fourth block of memory upon relinquishment of control by the participant.

11. A method of allocating memory for a host and a plurality of conference participants during a multipoint data conference, comprising the steps of:

allocating within a host a first memory block of size sufficient to allow application program sharing;

allocating within a host a plurality of memory blocks, one for each conference participant, of essentially equal size minimized to identify each conference participant.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of dynamically increasing the size of the first memory block upon sharing control of the application program with one of the conference participants.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the step of dynamically increasing the size of the first memory block includes the step of maintaining the size of the plurality of memory blocks essentially constant.

14. The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of dynamically decreasing the size of the first memory block upon relinquishment of control of the shared application.

15. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:  
allocating within each of the conference participants a second memory block for the host sufficient to allow each conference participant to view a shared application program; and

allocating within each of the conference participants a second plurality of memory blocks, one for each conference participant, of essentially equal size minimized to identify each conference participant.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of dynamically increasing within one of the plurality of conference participants an associated memory block from the second plurality of memory blocks to allow control of the shared application.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the step of increasing within one of the plurality of conference participants an associated memory block further comprises the step of maintaining remaining memory blocks of the plurality of memory blocks and the second memory block essentially the same size.

18. The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of dynamically decreasing within one of the plurality of conference participants the size of the associated memory block upon relinquishment of control of the shared application.

19. The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of dynamically increasing the size of the first memory block upon sharing control of the application program with one of the conference participants.

20. The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of dynamically reducing the size of the first memory block upon relinquishment of control of the application program by one of the conference participants.

21. A method of supporting true color, 24bpp, graphics in a multipoint data conference, comprising the steps of:  
examining color depth capabilities of conference participants;  
transmitting true color graphics if all participants can support true color graphics.

22. The method of claim 21, further comprising the steps of:  
mapping true color graphics to closest equivalent in a color palette of a depth determined by the lowest color depth supported by any participant;  
transmitting mapped graphics to all participants.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the step of mapping comprises the step of mapping the true color graphics to the closest equivalent in a 256 color, 8bpp color palette.

24. The method of claim 22, wherein the step of mapping comprises the step of mapping the true color graphics to the closest equivalent in a 16 color, 4bpp color palette.

25. The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of re-examining the color depth capabilities of conference participants upon addition and deletion of conference members.

26. The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of repainting shared information if the color depth capabilities change.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein the step of repainting shared information includes the step of transmitting true color graphics if all conference members can support true color graphics.

28. The method of claim 26, wherein the step of repainting shared information includes the step of mapping true color graphics to closest equivalent in a color palette of a depth determined by the lowest color depth supported by any participant.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the step of mapping comprises the step of mapping the true color graphics to the closest equivalent in a 256 color, 8bpp color palette.

30. The method of claim 28, wherein the step of mapping comprises the step of mapping the true color graphics to the closest equivalent in a 16 color, 4bpp color palette.

31. The method of claim 21, wherein the step of transmitting includes the step of specifying color depth in drawing order packets identifying the color depth for which these packets were generated.

32. The method of claim 21, wherein the step of transmitting includes the step of transmitting packets of less than 256 bytes in uncompressed format.

33. The method of claim 21, wherein the step of transmitting includes the step of persistently compressing packets less than or equal to 4k.

34. A method of transmitting graphics in a multipoint data conference, comprising the steps of:  
examining color depth capabilities of conference participants;  
calculating the minimum color depth supported by any conference participant; and  
transmitting graphics at the minimum color depth supported by any conference participant to all conference participants.

35. The method of claim 34, wherein the step of transmitting graphics comprises the step of transmitting true color, 24bpp graphics if all conference participants can support true color, 24bpp graphics.

36. The method of claim 34, further comprising the step of mapping true color graphics to closest equivalent in a color palette of a depth

determined by the lowest color depth supported by any participant performed prior to the step of transmitting.

37. The method of claim 36, wherein the step of mapping comprises the step of mapping the true color graphics to the closest equivalent in a 256 color, 8bpp color palette.

38. The method of claim 36, wherein the step of mapping comprises the step of mapping the true color graphics to the closest equivalent in a 16 color, 4bpp color palette.

39. The method of claim 34, wherein the step of transmitting includes the step of specifying color depth in drawing order packets identifying the color depth for which these packets were generated.

40. The method of claim 34, wherein the step of transmitting includes the step of transmitting packets of less than 256 bytes in uncompressed format.

41. The method of claim 34, wherein the step of transmitting includes the step of persistently compressing packets less than or equal to 4k.